

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
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INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7355

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MO, SP
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR DISCUSSES US ARMS SALES

REF: MADRID 7152

1. NOVEMBER 21 ISSUE OF LIBERAL INDEPENDENT WEEKLY MAGAZINE, "CAMBIO 16", CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH MOROCCAN AMBASSADOR ABDELLATIF FILALI WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN EXCERPTED IN SEVERAL SPANISH NEWSPAPERS. FILALI QUOTED AS STATING THAT HE HOPES TO CLARIFY FOR SPANISH PUBLIC OPINION THAT MOROCCO HAS "NO AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS". HE DENIED THAT MOROCCO'S RECENT PURCHASE OF TANKS AND FIGHTER-BOMBERS FROM US COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS "REARMAMENT", ADDING THAT "REPLACEMENT OF MATERIAL IS NATURAL." FILALI CONTINUED BY STATING THAT "JUST AS SPANISH ARMY UPDATES ITSELF FROM TIME TO TIME, THIS IS NOT FIRST TIME THAT MOROCCO IS BUYING ARMS FROM US.

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WHEN SPAIN BUYS MIRAGES OR WHATEVER, MOROCCO NEVER CONSIDERS

IT ABNORMAL AND HAS NEVER MADE ANY OUTCRY."

2. FILALI ALSO MADE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTERESTS:

(A) WHILE THERE WERE PROBLEMS IN THE PAST AND SINCE INDEPENDENCE WAS ACHIEVED, MOROCCO HAS ALWAYS FOLLOWED THE LINE OF UNDERSTANDING IN ITS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE AND SPAIN. OTHER PROBLEMS STILL REMAIN TO BE SOLVED, ALTHOUGH THE SOLUTION REACHED ON PREVIOUS ONES IS ENCOURAGING:

(B) MOROCCO DOES NOT CLOSE ANY DOOR TO NEGOTIATIONS. ICJ PROPOSAL IS ONLY SOLUTION THAT CAN SATISFY SPAIN AS WELL AS MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA;

(C) AMBASSADOR DENIED REPORT THAT KING HASSAN HAD STATED HE WOULD "DRINK TEA IN EL-AIUM", CLAIMING KING HAD REALLY SAID HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO DRINK TEA WITH SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN EVERYTHING RESOLVED. MOROCCO PREFERS THAT ICJ ARBITRATE RATHER THAN GIVE ADVISORY OPINION, THOUGH ADVISORY OPINION WOULD STILL HELP IF ARBITRATION IS REJECTED.

3. SPANISH PRESS NOVEMBER 22 ALSO REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO RECENT STORY IN SPANISH WEEKLY ECONOMIC MAGAZINE, "DOBLON", LIBYAN LEADER JALLOUD HAD MADE OFFER TO SPAIN FOR LIBYAN PURCHASE OF ENTIRE BU-CRAA PHOSPHATES OPERATION FOR GIURE OF 1.5 BILLION DOLLARS. SPANISH PRESS ALSO CONTINUES TO FEATURE REPORTS OF CURRENT DELIBERATION OF SAHARAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (YEMAA) IN EL-AIUUN, STRESSING COVERAGE OF CURRENT DISCUSSIONS OF PROPOSED SAHARAN NATIONALITY REQUIREMENTS.

4. COMMENT: WHILE AMBASSADOR SPOKE IN ARABIC TO PRESS THROUGH TRANSLATOR, ARTICLE INDICATES HE MENTIONED "RECENT PURCHASE OF TANKS AND FIGHTER-BOMBERS" AS IF PURCHASE OF F-5'S, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND ONLY IN PRELIMINARY PROPOSAL STAGE, ALREADY UNDERTAKEN. MFA HAS AGAIN EXPRESSED HOPE FOR EARLY REPLY TO ITS REQUEST LAST WEEK (MADRID 7152) FOR CLARIFICATION OF US INTENTIONS ON ARMS SALES. SINCE AMBASSADOR FILALI COMMENTS MAY CONTRIBUTE FURTHER MFA'S IMPATIENCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY REPLY TO REFTEL.

5. WE HAVE NO INDICATIONS WHATEVER OF ANY LIBYAN OFFER TO BUY BU-CRAA. MOROCCAN EMBASSY SOUCE HERE CALLS OFFER FABRICATION BY SPANISH IN ATTEMPT TO FRIGHTEN MOROCCO AND DIVIDE ARABS. SAME SOURCE ALSO COMMENTED THAT MOROCCO AND ITS FRIENDS WOULD REGARD ADOPTION OF PROPOSED NATIONALITY STATUTE BY YEMAA AS PROVOCATIVE AND DANGEROUS STEP BY SPAIN. STATUTE,

HE CLAIMS, WOULD BE USED TO CONFER SAHARAN CITIZENSHIP
READILY ON RESIDENT SPANISH NATIONALS AND FUTURE IMMIGRANTS,
THUS PAVING WAY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF ANOTHER SETTLER REGIME
IN AFRICA.
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